

IMMIGRANT VISAS

Filing a Petition at the Embassy for an Immediate Relative

Definition:

Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens are defined as the spouse, unmarried child under 21, and parents of a U.S. citizen. A U.S. citizen must be at least 21 years of age in order to file a petition for his or her parent.

Step 1

If you are a U.S. citizen and want to file an immigrant visa petition for an immediate relative, you can file a petition at the U.S. Embassy in Nassau if you have been continuously and legally residing in The Bahamas or the Turks and Caicos Islands for at least **six months** prior to petition filing. Individuals who are in the country on a temporary status, such as student or tourist, do not meet this residency standard.

All U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents ("green card" holders) residing in the United States must file I-130 petitions at the USCIS service center in the United States having jurisdiction over their place of residence. For more information please check <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

Step 2

If you meet the above requirements and wish to file a petition at Embassy Nassau, please e-mail VisaNassau@state.gov with the following information:

- Your name
- Your U.S. passport number
- Name of your relative
- Relationship
- Type and length of your residency in The Bahamas or the TCIs
- Your contact information

Step 3

U.S. citizen petitioner must fill out a form I-130 and complete form G-325A for self and the beneficiary.

Step 4

On the day of your interview, please bring following documents with you:

- Completed form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative;
- Two completed and signed G-325A's (one for you and one for your relative)
- Proof of your U.S. citizenship, e.g. U.S. passport
- Proof of your legal residency abroad for at least 6 months
- Proof of your relationship, as appropriate (e.g.: certified copy of marriage certificate with evidence of termination of any previous marriages by either party; certified copy of birth certificate showing one person as parent and the other as child;)
- Certified copy of your relative's birth certificate;
- 2 photos (see info)
- Fee (as of Aug 2009: \$ 355)

All documents not in English must be accompanied by certified English translations.

Only one copy of each document, except for photographs, must be submitted with the visa application. You are advised, however, to obtain the necessary documents in duplicate, as this will enable you to provide identical copies in the event the first set is lost or damaged.